REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 13, 17-19, 21, 26, 28, 33-36, and 44-47 are pending. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-3, 13, 17-19, 21, 26, 28, 33-36, and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 7,136,377 to Tweedly et al. ("Tweedly") and U.S. Pat. No. 6,721,333 to Milton et al. ("Milton").

Applicants appreciate the Examiner granting our telephonic interview request of January 28, 2009 during which proposed amendments to independent Claim 1 and distinctions between the claimed invention and the cited references were discussed. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 33, and 44 to further patentably distinguish the cited references. Several dependent claims have also been amended in light of amendments to the independent Claims. Claims 13 and 17 have been cancelled. New Claims 51 and 52, which are dependent upon Claims 33 and 44, respectively have been added.

In light of the amendments and subsequent remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance

The Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 33, and 44 under §103(a) is Overcome

The Office Action submits that each of independent Claims 1, 33, and 44 is obvious in view of the combination of Tweedly and Milton. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the recitations of now-cancelled dependent Claims 13 and 17. In this regard, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method comprising receiving a data packet at an input interface. The received data packet comprises a header section and a pay-load section. The header section comprises a compressed header section containing coded information including routing information. The method additionally comprises decompressing said routing information from said compressed header section. The method also comprises including at least a part of said decompressed routing information into said data packet. The method further comprises routing said data packet to an output interface. The method additionally comprises forwarding said data packet to said output interface, wherein said routing comprises ascertaining said

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routing information from said compressed header section, and wherein said coded information is left unchanged by said routing and forwarding.

Similarly, Applicants have amended Claim 33 to be directed to an apparatus comprising an output interface configured to receive at least one data packet containing compressed data. The apparatus additionally comprises a decompressor configured to communicate with said input interface and to decompress said decompressed data such that decompressed data are created based on said compressed data. The apparatus further comprises an output interface configured to communicate with said decompressor and to provide said decompressed data of said data packet. The decompressor is configured to selectively decompress only compressed header data contained in a header section of said data packet. The decompressor is further configured to <u>decompress said routing information from said compressed header information and to include at least a part of said decompressed routing information into said data packet.</u>

Likewise, Applicants have amended Claim 44 to recite an apparatus comprising at least one input port adapted to receive at least one data packet through at least one first communication link. The apparatus further comprises a plurality of output ports. The input port comprises a reader adapted to read a first header compression context identifier from a compressed header section. The input port further comprises a switcher adapted to replace said first header compression context identifier by a second header compression identifier. <u>The apparatus is configured to decompress routing information from said compressed header section and to include at least a part of said decompressed routing information into said data packet.</u>

Accordingly, each of independent Claims 1, 33, and 44 have been amended to substantially incorporate the recitations of Claims 13 and 17 and recite decompressing routing information from the compressed header section and including at least a part of the decompressed routing information into the data packet. Therefore, the data packet includes decompressed routing information and is routable without requiring any additional compressing or decompressing of the routing information at subsequent points (e.g., routers) along a routing path from the data packet source to the data packet

destination.

Tweedly relates to sending datagrams in a tunnel packet in a compressed-header format. However, neither the passage beginning at Col. 8, line 15 cited by the Examiners during the telephonic interview, nor any other portion of Tweedly teaches or suggests including, after decompressing, at least a part of the decompressed routing information into the data packet.

Likewise, Milton does not teach or suggest including, after decompressing of routing information from a compressed header section, at least a part of the decompressed routing information into the data packet.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that neither Tweedly nor Milton, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the recitations of amended independent Claims 1, 33, and 44. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 33, and 44 are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken alone or in combination, such that the rejection is overcome and further submit that Claims 1, 33, and 44 are in condition for allowance.

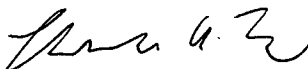## The Rejection of the Dependent Claims is Overcome

Because each of the dependent claims includes each of the recitations of a respective independent base claim, Applicants further submit that the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited references, taken alone or in combination, for at least those reasons discussed above. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the dependent claims are overcome and the dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON February 17, 2009.

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